

comments and concerns, to debate the issues in a frank manner, and to find solutions which will make our community more inclusive and more just.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Our success in meeting these challenges will depend—in large measure—on our commitment to human rights. This evening has been a success if it causes each one of us to renew our commitment to human rights and to act in specific ways on that commitment.

The stakes are high. This country has been dedicated to the cause of human rights from its inception. If you and I do not lead in human rights, who will? Surely those of us who have been given so much—good parents, good education, good health, a marvelous country—and all of our many blessings—must take the lead for human rights into the 21st Century.

So when you leave here in a few minutes, what are you going to do? May I suggest you and I renew a simple pledge: We stand for justice. We combat injustice wherever we may find it—at home or abroad, in our own community or across the world. Leaders and legislation may be important, but what happens in your life, in your home, in your heart is more important than what happens in the White House.

We join hands in support of the Human Rights Commission in Columbus in a noble cause: contributing to the direction and success of a free society and a humane world.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. JOEL FORT

##### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 1998*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of a truly remarkable man, Dr. Joel Fort.

Dr. Fort was an early visionary in the field of public health. He was one of the first professionals to understand that social problems such as substance abuse and violence were not going to be solved by the criminal justice system alone, but rather required a collaborative approach which included public health expertise. Dr. Fort's personal commitment to this field brought about the creation of the San Francisco Department of Health's Center for Special Problems and the Center for Solving Special Social and Health Problems. These Centers have reached thousands of individuals, and serve as a model for replication throughout the United States and abroad. Not satisfied to stop there, Dr. Fort influenced a generation of public health and social service professionals by taking his philosophy into the classroom—teaching at several universities on subjects of drug abuse, criminology, ethics and conflict resolution. Dr. Fort's many achievements have earned him numerous accolades, most notably the recent completion of Oral History of Joel Fort, M.D.: Public Health Pioneer, Criminologist, Reformer, Ethicist, and Humanitarian by the Regional Oral History Office of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Throughout this rich and varied career, Dr. Fort always held his family as his top priority. Therefore, it is only appropriate that we join with his wife of 46 years, Maria Fort, and his three children and three grandchildren, in cele-

brating his life and his legacy. Dr. Joel Fort is an undeniably outstanding member of our community, and I speak for the entire U.S. House of Representatives in this tribute to him.

#### COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN CALLS ON PAKISTAN TO RECOGNIZE KHALISTAN

##### HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 1998*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, recently the Council of Khalistan, which leads the struggle to liberate the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian rule, recently wrote an open letter to the people and government of Pakistan urging Pakistan to recognize Khalistan to stop India from achieving hegemony in South Asia.

The letter pointed out that two leaders of the ruling BJP recently called for Pakistan and Bangladesh to become part of India. It has been fifty years since India and Pakistan achieved their independence, agreeing to partition at that time. For leaders of the ruling party to call for that agreement to be undone reveals India's imperialist aims in the region. The atrocities committed against the Sikhs, the Christians of Nagaland, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Dalits ("black untouchables," the aboriginal people of the subcontinent), and so many others also show India's drive to establish Hindu Raj throughout South Asia.

An independent Khalistan can serve as a buffer to prevent war between India and Pakistan. Khalistan is committed to freedom, denuclearization in South Asia, and economic cooperation to assure prosperity for all. It is time for the United States to promote freedom, peace, stability, and prosperity in South Asia by supporting a free and fair vote on the political status of Khalistan and for Pakistan to recognize the legitimate aspirations of the people of Khalistan, Nagaland, and all the nations of South Asia.

I am putting the Council of Khalistan's open letter into the RECORD.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,  
*Washington, DC, April 8, 1998.*

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN: TO STOP INDIAN HEGEMONY, RECOGNIZE KHALISTAN

*To the people and Government of Pakistan:*

Your recent missile test is an unfortunate reminder of the tensions in South Asia. While it was a necessary response to India's drive to establish its hegemony over South Asia, it is still an unfortunate event. We all hope that South Asia will not once again erupt into a war.

India's drive for hegemony shows in the recent statement by two BJP leaders that Pakistan and Bangladesh should become part of India. It shows in India's military buildup. And it shows in India's ongoing repression of the minorities living within its artificial borders. It has already murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. It has murdered almost 60,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits ("black untouchables," the aboriginal people of South Asia), and others.

You can help to end India's drive for hegemony by recognizing Khalistan. Your rec-

ognition will be a major boost of the movement to bring freedom to the oppressed Sikh Nation. It will also carry strategic advantages for you, as Khalistan can serve as a buffer between you and India. If there is a war, Sikhs will not fight for India. The Sikh Nation can also use the fact the over 60 percent of India's grain comes from Punjab, Khalistan to deter India from pursuing its dream of Hindu Raj throughout South Asia. I ask you to recognize Khalistan immediately. We seek to establish an Embassy in Islamabad and four consulates in Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, and Quetter.

Khalistan is committed to the denuclearization of South Asia and to the establishment of a South Asian common market to bring greater economic prosperity to all the countries of South Asia. Khalistan will also sign a 100-year friendship and defense treaty with Pakistan. Only the liberation of Khalistan and the other oppressed nations of South Asia will bring true peace and stability to the subcontinent.

The Indian government has been talking to Naga leaders about the status of Nagaland. Yet India has failed to live up to its obligations under the 1948 U.N. resolution in which it agreed to a plebiscite in Kashmir and it has refused to hold a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan. India is not one country. It is a collection of many nations thrown together by the British for their administrative convenience. The collapse of India's brutal, corrupt empire is inevitable. By recognizing Khalistan, you can help bring that about sooner and help bring freedom, democracy, peace, and prosperity to South Asia. I call upon the people and government of Pakistan to take this step immediately.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,

*President,*

*Council of Khalistan.*

#### HONORING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF JOSEPH GIGUERE

##### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 23, 1998*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I have this opportunity to stand on the floor of this great Chamber and acknowledge the celebration and occasion of the 80th Birthday of my constituent, Joseph Giguere.

Mr. Giguere of Southbridge, Massachusetts was born in St. Aimée in the Province of Quebec, Canada on March 19, 1918. His early years on his family's homestead in the countryside surrounding Montreal instilled within him a sense of hard work and determination, and loyalty to friends and family. These admirable qualities were carried with him when he emigrated to the United States at the age of eleven and helped him to persevere and fully acclimate himself to the American society that he proudly became a citizen of. His eagerness to learn a new language, while still observing and respecting the strong French-Canadian heritage that had been ingrained in him, enabled him to attain an education and skills necessary for trade of a woodcraftsman. Though it was the Depression, his father was an entrepreneur and successfully started numerous enterprises, including broom factories, butcher shops, and woodworking establishments. The skills that Mr. Giguere learned allowed for him to always find work to sustain and contribute to his family.